



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2012 6:30-8:30pm

Attendance:

Julie Noble, Chair
Casey Schwarz
Gregg Swanzey

Guests:

Steve Rosenberg, SVP Scenic Hudson
Sacha Spector, Director of Conservation Science, Scenic Hudson

Meeting Minutes: The July 2012 CAC minutes were accepted with amendments; Gregg Swanzey moved to accept, Casey Schwarz seconded. Motion Carried.

CIX designs: CAC Website annual fee and domain name invoice: Julie spoke with Micah about the invoice, to confirm that it includes hosting by CIXdesigns, the domain name and upkeep. Casey requested a set up of traffic flow data collection for monitoring. Julie had paid CIXdesigns in July with a personal check for the \$100 that had been invoiced, and the CAC had decided to pay Julie back \$20 a piece to reimburse. Casey and Gregg have paid as of July 2012.

Discussion ensued about building capacity, fundraising and a question was raised about whether, if the CAC brought in funds, if there is a line item for the CAC in the City Budget, or if there could be an expense and revenue line under an existing department. Julie will speak with the Mayor about how this might look in the 2013 budget. Other options could be to set up an account through the Community Foundation or another non-profit, which would take some portion to administer the funds but then we could use it. Or funds, as acquired, could be put in the appropriate City Department on a case by case basis. Revisit this in the future.

Public Safety Commission Energy Efficiency Outreach Materials Distribution: Julie put some materials at City Hall and has the rest at the Mid-town Neighborhood Center for use with student programming throughout the year. Lillian should post the materials on the website and could periodically point people to the website from Facebook. The materials should be posted as pdfs.

Creek Week: The CAC decided that we didn't have the capacity to host a program during Creek Week but will promote Creek Week events on Facebook and attend events ourselves.

Planning Board: Casey attended the last Planning Board meeting and made the following follow up comments:

- 1) The TransArt project got an 8 month extension on submitting plans to the Planning Board; they are having setbacks from NYSEDA.

- 2) Casey will speak with Kyla about the data collected by their light meter, how it's used.
- 3) Lace Curtain Factory: SEQR application is complete, they will be presenting at the September Planning Board meeting.
- 4) There will be a special joint planning board meeting of Kingston and Town of Ulster regarding the promenade at the Hudson Landing.

Guest Presentation

Scenic Hudson's Sacha Spector and Steve Rosenberg came to present a proposal for a Kingston-based Sea Level Rise Task Force and collaboration from the Kingston CAC. They will be hosting forums around waterfront planning and are interested in working with the CAC to do this in the Fall of 2012. These forums will be modeled after how the Hudson River Estuary Program offers the Hudsonia Biodiversity Assessment Trainings. This Task Force will help inform waterfront planning and will be a few month commitment. The group brainstormed ideas for who would be on the Task Force. The goal of the Task Force would be to develop short, medium and long term risks and opportunities to Sea Level Rise on Kingston's Waterfronts. This effort is not grant driven, but a strategic and engaging way to involve communities in planning. The timeline is to start at the end of September with a goal of completion by Winter.

Why Kingston? Kingston has an environmental track record, a large amount at stake on the waterfront and had a successful planning event in January of which this will follow up.

Scenic Hudson is dedicating 4 staff resources to this effort: Sacha Spector, Mark Wildhammer (sp?), Jeff Anzevino and Steve Rosenberg as well as Hudson River Estuary Program staff and support from the Consensus Building Institute in Boston, who will create collaborating avenues for stakeholders.

The goal is to provide phased opportunities, pick one issue, go deeper into that issue with cost benefit analyses and to create a final report as a product, to recommend to the Common Council. This could position the City of Kingston for DOS funding.

Scenic Hudson presented a Draft Syllabus.

Discussion ensued, and Julie, Gregg and Casey supported moving forward with commitment from the CAC to assist in the facilitation of this Task Force.

Julie will forward this info to the rest of the CAC for review and then Scenic Hudson, and CAC members will sit down with the Mayor to discuss the proposal and get feedback from the City's administration.

Reports

- 1) Planning Board (Casey): See above.
- 2) EMC Report (Julie): The EMC meeting took place in the SUNY Ulster XERISCAPE Garden on the campus for a tour and then followed with member updates.
- 3) Public Safety (Julie): Julie updated the Public Safety Committee on the status of the Climate Action Plan and mentioned that we would be formally requesting this to appear on the agenda for adoption within a few months. Gregg will attend in August, Julie in September.

NEXT MEETING: September 6, 2012, 6:30pm

Adjournment: 8:46pm, Casey moved to adjourn, Gregg seconded.